



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

16 JANUARY 2020

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Border Patrol Agents Locate 33 Illegal Immigrants Inside Trailer

(U) Laredo – Border Patrol agents interdicted an alleged human smuggling attempt involving over two-dozen illegal immigrants in south-central Laredo. The incident happened when agents received a tip regarding suspicious activity. With help from the Laredo Police Department, agents searched a tractor-trailer that was suspected of being used to smuggle in illegal aliens. When agents searched the cargo, they found a total of 33 people inside the trailer. Record checks revealed the occupants were in the US illegal and from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and China. Border Patrol agents seized the trailer and the illegal immigrants were taken into custody.

SOURCE: 15 January 2020, [KGNS](#)

(U) Texas – Border Patrol Seizes Almost 500 Pounds of Marijuana

(U) Laredo – Laredo Sector Border Patrol agents confiscated several bundles of narcotics being brought into the country. The incident occurred when agents assigned to the Laredo North Station received a report of several individuals with bundles crossing the Rio Grande into the US. The individuals had loaded the bundles into a waiting vehicle. Agents quickly intercepted the vehicle and seized seven bundles of marijuana. The marijuana had a total weight of 493 pounds with an approximate street value of \$394,416. The case was referred to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

SOURCE: 15 January 2020, [KGNS](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Two Individuals Sentenced in Connection with Work on Behalf of Iran

(U) Washington – Ahmadreza Mohammadi-Doostdar, 39, a dual US-Iranian citizen, and Majid Ghorbani, 60, an Iranian citizen and resident of California, have been sentenced to prison for their criminal convictions relating to their conduct conducting surveillance of and collecting identifying information about American citizens and US nationals who are members of the group Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK). Yesterday, the Honorable Paul L. Friedman sentenced Doostdar to a prison term of 38 months, 36 months of supervised release, and a fine of \$14,153. Ghorbani was sentenced to a prison term of 30 months and 36 months of supervised release.

SOURCE: 15 January 2020, [US DoJ](#)

(U) Louisiana – City Will Take Months to Recover from Recent Cyber Attack

(U) New Orleans – The City of New Orleans says the recent cyber-attack on its networks had a more than seven-million-dollar impact. The city says sophisticated ransomware was behind the attack but no ransom has been demanded or paid in the last month since it happened. Included in the millions the city will spend to recover from the cyber-attack are buying new computers and improving the city's Information Technology (IT) infrastructure.

SOURCE: 15 January 2020, [FOX 8](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) Maryland – FBI Arrests Alleged Members of White Supremacist Group

(U) Annapolis – The FBI has arrested three men suspected of being members of a neo-Nazi hate group, including a former reservist in the Canadian Army, who had weapons and discussed traveling to a pro-gun rally next week in Richmond, Va., in anticipation of a possible race war. The men were taken into custody this morning as part of a long-running investigation into the group, known as The Base. The men were charged with various federal crimes in Maryland, according to law enforcement officials familiar with the case. They were scheduled to appear in federal court before a judge on Thursday afternoon.

SOURCE: 16 January 2020, [The New York Times](#)

(U) New York – UN Hit by Major Phishing Attack

(U) New York City – The United Nations has been hit by a targeted cyberattack that uses one of the world's most notorious malware strains. Criminals used the Emotet malware in order to launch a phishing campaign aimed at stealing login details for UN staff and officials alike. Hundreds of workers were targeted in the attack, which focused on the UN headquarters in New York, with the hackers devising an ingenious strategy to try and trick their victims. Opening the email's Microsoft Word attachment launches a spoof document template with a pop-up warning saying the document only available for desktop or laptop versions of Microsoft Office Word.

SOURCE: 15 January 2020, [Tech Radar](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Germany – Synagogue Photo Prompts Police Raids**

(U) Berlin – Police raided premises in four states on suspicion that a group of Chechens were scouting locations for a possible attack that may have included a synagogue. Prosecutors said some 180 officers took part in the raids at nine sites in the German capital and the states of Brandenburg, North Rhine-Westphalia and Thuringia. In a statement, prosecutors said the five suspects are accused of scouting out locations for a possible later attack.

SOURCE: 15 January 2020, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Sweden – Surge in Bomb Attacks as Gang Violence Rises

(U) Stockholm – Sweden has been hit by a wave of shootings and bombings over the past couple of years which police have linked to gang conflicts in major cities. Some 257 bomb attacks were reported to police last year, up from 162 the previous year, statistics from the National Council for Crime Prevention showed. The agency did not give any information about the types of explosives used most frequently or any other details, but Swedish media have reported some attacks using make-shift bombs made from vacuum flasks packed with explosive material. Police have identified around 60 deprived areas, mainly in and around larger cities, where unemployment is high, incomes low and where drugs and gangs have gained a firm foothold.

SOURCE: 16 January 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

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